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Friends of Michigan History, Inc.

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Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
Michigan Historical Museum
Lansing, Michigan
March 10, 2008

There was insufficient Board of Director members present to hold a Board meeting. Consequently, a meeting of Executive Committee of the Board of Directors was held instead.

Call to Order

President Bus Spaniola called the Executive Committee (Committee) of the Board of Directors (Board) meeting of the Friends of Michigan History (Friends) to order at 10:05 A.M.

Board Executive Committee Members Present: Keith Harrison, Richard Johnson, Bus Spaniola, and Paul Tarr.

Other Board Members Present: Charles Seeley, Ralph Sims, and Bill Wellman

Board Executive Committee Board Members Absent: Tom Truscott.

Board Executive Committee Members Excused: Tom Truscott.

Michigan Historical Museum (Museum) Staff Present: Chris Dancisak.

President Report

President Spaniola requested that the Memorandum of Agreement (Agreement) between the Friends, Museum, and the Michigan Historical Center Foundation (Foundation) again be sent out to the Board for review (It is due to be renewed on or before May 15, 2008). To date, there have been no concerns expressed or changes submitted by any Board member regarding the current Agreement language. Given this, should this expression of concurrence remain unchanged by the April Board meeting, the Executive Committee will begin the process of renewing the Agreements with the Museum and Foundation.

President Spaniola brought up several other topics all of which concerned fund raising opportunities by the Board. The suggestions and the ensuing discussion regarding these ideas are presented under Committee Reports in these minutes.

Treasurers Report

Treasurer Dick Johnson presented the financial report for February.

BALANCE	2-01-08	9,371.89
DEPOSITS	FOMH	878.20
	Walker Tavern	<u>69.80</u>
		948.00
Total		<u>+948.00</u> 10,319.89

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Treasurers Report (continued)

Total (continued from previous page) **10,319.89**

Cashed Checks

#1352	Fayette	16.60	
#1353	Hukill	100.00	
#1354	Torango	100.00	
#1355	Hudson	100.00	
#1356	Nokomis	100.00	
#1357	Hands-on-History	150.00	
#1358	Degan	200.00	
#1359	Arasim	26.83	
#1360	Averill	8025	
#1361	Caterers	75.90	
#1362	State of MI	<u>10.00</u>	
Total		959.58	<u>-959.58</u>

BALANCE **2-29-08** **9,360.31**

Uncashed Checks Walker Tavern -69.80

AVAILABLE FUNDS **02-29-08** **9,290.51**

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Treasurer's report as presented; motion passed.

Presentation of Bills

No bills were presented for payment.

Museum Report

Chris Dancisak indicated that the Museum is in the process of developing a new exhibit entitled, *Michigan's Roadside Attractions*. An early January 2009 opening date is planned -- the actual date is subject to some building construction work schedules. On behalf of the Museum, he requested that the Friends consider providing up to \$5,000 toward the development of the new exhibit. As was done with the deer hunting special exhibit, bill for expenditures for exhibit materials, props, educational items, and certain marketing costs would be provided directly to the Friends for payment. It is anticipated that these expenditures would be made between April of 2008 and February of 2009; a ten-month period. The Museum also will be receiving significant support from the Michigan Department of Transportation as the exhibit is developed.

In general, for purposes of this exhibit, roadside attractions are defined as places one might stop on the way to somewhere else, rather than being a final or primary destination in and of themselves. Michigan's Roadside Attractions exhibit is a sampling of those resources found in Michigan from the 1920s through 1970. Examples would be monuments and amusements such

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as the Irish Hills Twin Towers, Deer Acres in Pinconning, or the Mystery Spot in St. Ignace. The Friends would be conspicuously acknowledged for its support for the exhibit.

A motion was made and seconded to recommend to the full Board at the April meeting that \$5,000 be set aside for the Museum's planned exhibit entitled, Michigan's Roadside Attractions; motion passed.

Chris also informed the Executive Committee that he was planning on retiring from state service at the end of May 2009. He stated that he looked forward to working with the Board during the next 15 months. A question was raised about his possible successor in terms of an ex officio Board member. He indicated that the person who would assume that role may be Martha Bloomfield, but he did not know for certain.

Committee Reports

A. *2008 Veterans Day Program Committee (Paul Tarr and Tom Shawver – Co chairs):* Paul Tarr indicated that the committee was still working on this.

B. *Membership Committee (Keith Harrison – Chair)* Keith Harrison that he had only received four possible venues where the Friends' Display could be set up. The areas suggested were:

May 31, 2008 - Be A Tourist [This is confirmed that the Friends will be there]

Location: State Museum

Saturday from 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM

No Cost for Friends to set up display

July 15, 16, 17, 2008 – Ag Expo

Michigan State University [This is confirmed that the Friends will be there]

Tuesday from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Wednesday from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Thursday from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

No cost to the Friends to set up display

Contact: Board Member Charles Seeley

**September 6, 7, 2008 Founder's Day and Sesquicentennial of Corunna
Corunna Michigan**

Times are unknown at this time

No cost to the Friends to set up display

Contact: Board Member Bus Spaniola

**February 6, 7, 8, 2008 - Women's Expo
Lansing Center**

Friday from 10:00 AM to 8:00 PM

Saturday from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM

Sunday from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM

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Cost \$595.00 for 3 days for 10 X 10 Area each day
Contact Denise 1-616-532-8833

Each Board member present again was asked to provide the name, dates, and contact information for the events to Keith Harrison (pcinc@prodigy.net).

C. *Board Nominating Committee (Charles Seeley appointed)*. No report.

D. *Magazine/Military Committee (Paul Tarr – Chair)*. Paul Tarr indicated that everything was ready to go. The magazines would be obtained at the end of this meeting and could then be mailed. It was indicated that the cost of the postage could be paid for by the Friends and any one who has made a pledge or still wishing to donate towards this cost of postage could do so by sending the donation to the Friends. These individuals would receive an acknowledgement of their donation from the Friends.

E. *Grants Committee (Adriana Greci Green - Chair)*. No report.

F. *Newsletter Committee (Paul Tarr and Tom Shawver – Co Chairs)*. Paul indicated that a Spring newsletter is planned and that information should be gotten to him by no later than April.

G. *Fund Raising Committee (Bus Spaniola - Chair)*. Chris Dancisak indicated that he still had not heard back from the Department of Management and Budget about using the state facility for the summer jazz/music programs. It was indicated that we may have to proceed with the planning of this regardless. He indicated that he needed to make contact with the Lansing Community College radio station. It was stated that the 7th Michigan had agreed to be present at the Museum for the Be a Tourist Day and that the Friends will have its display present.

President Spaniola talked about trying to do something with the upcoming anniversary of the Train wreck in Adrian (Wreck on the Wabash), where many Italian immigrants were killed. The immigrants were on their way to Colorado. He indicated that he would follow up on this.

It also was talked about sponsoring programs where individual papers/speakers/seminars on various Michigan historical topics could be presented. This could be done possibly on a quarterly basis.

Chris indicated that he had been contacted by Collette Travel about the possibility of a fund raising proposition whereby Friends members could receive percentage discounts on travel packages. The Executive Committee indicated that this should be followed up on in order to obtain specifics about the proposed program.

Chris informed the Committee about the Barnes & Noble fund raising opportunity presented to the Friends. Basically, the Friends would pick a day (or days) or weekend to invite its supporters (and public too!) to come to a Barnes & Noble store and make their personal purchases. They could buy whatever merchandise they liked and Barnes and Nobel would donate up to 20 percent cash back for the Friends. The Committee also indicated that this should be followed up on. President Spaniola indicated that he would contact Barnes & Noble.

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Old Business

A. *Friends' Display.* Keith Harrison indicated that Larry Griffin informed him that the new placard for the Friends Display Board had been obtained.

B. *License Plates.* Currently, the bill to establish the license plate is still pending.

C. *IRS Group Exemption Application Status.* Keith Harrison indicated that the paperwork amending the Articles of Incorporation was acknowledged by the state. The paperwork can now be begun to obtain the Group Exemption Number (GEN). Based on a couple of instances of IRS non-acceptance of a couple of 501 (c) (3)s who filed the new IRS electronic tax return, he did express some concern about ensuring that the Friends electronic IRS tax filing was submitted and approved by the IRS before the paper work is sent in to the IRS.

D. *Conservation of Historical Photographs.* State Archivist Mark Harvey was not present to provide an update.

E. *Telephonic Board Attendance.* Nothing has changed since the last meeting. The Board's current meeting location on the 1st floor of the Museum does not have telephonic capability.

New Business

There was no New Business.

Announcement

Paul Tarr indicated that the old downtown Lansing Knapps Building is being looked at for renovation and to ultimately house the Lansing Symphony. If that happens, it could help the Friends as a venue for some of its programs. It will still be about 3 years before this ready.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 AM.

Respectively submitted,

Keith G. Harrison

Keith G. Harrison, Secretary
Board of Directors
Friends of Michigan History, Inc.

The next Regular Board meeting will be Monday, April 14, 2008, in Lansing.